## CONGRESS

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1852.

IN SENATE.

IN SENATE.

Petitions and memorials were presented, as follows:
By Mr. HALE: From John St. John, who professes to
be well acquainted with steam navigation throughout the
world, and believes that he can construct an ocean craft
which can seither be burnt, nor sunk, (even if stove
against icebergs or rocks,) nor blown up by its boilers,
and which will average across the Atlantic fifteen miles
an hour. The memorialist will undertake to build the
vessel, provided the Government will remunerate him in
case of success; expresses so firmly his convictions on
the subject that he only asks Congress to place in the deficiency bill a provision giving him and his associates, or
their legal representatives, the sum of one million of dollars upon condition of his producing such a vessel within
five years from the passage of the act, to be adjudged
and reported on by a committee of five disinterested persons to be appointed by the President, on whose decision
the Secretary of the Navy is to pay the money. The
outline of Mr. St. John's plan is, that the vessel is not to
be less than four thousand tons, forty rods long, and six
wide; to draw only from five to six feet water when laden.
She is to have two sets of boilers and engines, and four wide; to draw only from five to six feet water when laden. She is to have two sets of boilers and engines, and four pairs of water-wheels; is to be of iron entirely, with zinc finishing; the kelsons, ribs, beams, and carlins of plate iron, corrugated where proper, and made air-tight, forming air-chambers like the quills and bones of birds. The floors or decks will be double, having sectional air-chambers throughout, as will also the portions of the ship, including those forming the state-rooms, cabins, kitchens, &c., thereby rendering it impossible for her to sink. She is also to be subdivided by water-tight partitions. Although five years are asked, the memorialist sink. She is also to be subdivided by water-tight partitions. Although five years are asked, the memorialist says he can accomplish the work in two; and although the condition of speed is fixed at the moderate rate of fifteen miles an hour, he has no doubt of accomplishing an average of from twenty to twenty-five miles per hour, besides having her shot-proof. He calls attention to the unhappy fate of the steamer President, and the English steamer lately burnt at sea, and hopes that these cases will speak in favor of the proposition, and induce the offer of the required stimulant to start it, particularly as the Government can suffer no loss if the work is not accomplished, while the offer might result in the greatest imaginable benefits to commerce.

complished, while the offer might result in the greatest imaginable benefits to commerce.

By Mr. NORRIS: From the heirs of Maj. Gen. Starke, of the revolutionary war, asking to be allowed depreciation on commutation certificates.

Mr. GWIN, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, to which was referred the memorial of the Legislature of Tennessee, asking that the navy yard at Memphis, in that State, may be completed according to the original plan submitted a report on the same, which was ordered to be printed. [The report is favorable to the prayer, and says that an appropriation will be asked at some future time.]

Mr. BADGER asked the unanimous consent of the Senate to allow him to introduce a joint resolution granting the right of way to the Fayetteville and Central Plank Road, which having been given, he asked the still further indulgence of having it read a second time at once, and put on its passage. He explained that this road, which was in process of completion, was of some importance to the State, or at least to a very large number of her inhabitants. Unless this road could be run through that part of the public lands connected with the arsenal, the company would have to make a long detour in order to get round, which would be attended with much expense, as wall as delay. Mr. B. histed that as this was the first

well as delay. Mr. B. hinted that as this was the first instance any grant of this kind had been asked by his State, and which in this case asked for no alternate sections, he hoped it might be passed.

The resolution was then read as follows:

The resolution was then read as follows:

Resolved, &c. That the right of way through the public land of the United States at Fayetteville, North Carolina, (which at present is not improved,) be and the same is hereby granted to the Fayetteville and Central Plank Road; provided that in the opinion of the President of the United States said grant be not injurious to the public interests; and provided further, that if the said road be not completed in two years, or if at any time after its completion the said road be discontinued or abandoned, the grant hereby made shall cease and determine.

Mr. CASS suggested that the resolution as read did not prescribe the quantity of land, or the particular width that

prescribe the quantity of land, or the particular width that would be required.

Mr. BADGER. This road will not require miles along its whole extent, but simply a few feet, say some thirty or forty, which will be amply sufficient, and which can be The resolution was then amended so as to make the

grant forty feet wide, and ordered to be engrossed as CLAIM AGENTS.

On motion by Mr. BRODHEAD, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill to amend and extend the provisions of an act approved July 29, 1846, entitled "An act in rela-

tion to the payment of claims."

The amendments pending being those reported from the Committee of Claims to make the bill prospective in its duration, and making its provisions apply to members of Congress, &c.

of Congress, &c.

The amendment led to some discussion, in which Messrs.

HAMLIN, BRODHEAD, BADGER, BERRIEN, HALE,
BAYARD, BORLAND, BRADBURY and others, participated, when the question was taken on agreeing to the amendment, and decided in the affirmative. On motion by Mr. BRADBURY, the amendment of the

committee was further amended, and the bill was then ordered to be engrossed and read, as follows:

ordered to be engrossed and read, as follows:

Be it enected, &c. That all transfers and assignments hereafter to be made of any claim upon the United States, or any, part or share thereof, or interest therein, whether absolute or conditional, and whatever may be the consideration therefor; and all contracts or agreements hereafter to be made for allowing compensation to any agent for claims or other person or persons, for or on account of services performed or to be performed in procuring testimony in support of, or otherwise aiding in obtaining the allowance of any such claim; and all powers of attorney, orders, or other authorities, for receiving powers of attorney, orders, or other authorities, for receiving payment of any such claim, or any part or share thereof, shall be absolutely null and void, unless the same shall be freely made and executed in the presence of at least two attesting incesses, after the allowance of such claim, the ascertainment of the amount due, and the issuing of a warrant for the payment thereof.

of the amount due, and the issuing of a warrant for the payment thereof.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That any officer of the United States, or person holding any place of trust or profit, or discharging any official function under or in connexion with any Executive Department of the Government of the United States, who, after the passage of this act, shall act as an agent for prosecuting any claim or claims against the United States, or shall in any manner or by any means otherwise than in the discharge of his proper official duties, aid or assist in the prosecution or support of any such claim or claims, shall be liable to indictment as for a misdemennor, and on conviction in any court having cognizance thereof, shall pay a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or suffer imprisonment not exceeding six calendar months, or both, as the court in its discretion shall adjudge, due regard being had to all the circumstances of the case.

f the case.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That any member of 'either Sec. 3. And be it further enocted, That any member of cither bouse of Congress, who, after the passage of this act, shall, for compensation paid or to be paid, certain or contingent, act as agent or attorney for prosecuting any claim or chaims against the United States before either house of Congress or any of the Executive Departments, or before any board of commissioners constituted by an act of Congress, or made necessary to any treaty between the United States and any other foreign Powers, or shall in any manner or by any means, for such compensation, aid or assist in the prosecution or support of any such claim or claims, shall be liable to indictment and prosecution, as in the cases mentioned in the second section of this act.

set. And be if further exacted, That the provisions of this act, and of the act of July twenty-ninth, eighteen hundred and forty-six, entitled "An act in relation to the payment of claims," shall apply and extend to all claims against the United States, whether allowed by special acts of Congress or arising under general laws or treaties, or in any other manner whatever.

The following bills were severally read a third time and

passed:
The bill granting to the State of Michigan the right of way and a donation of public land for the purpose of constructing a canal or railroad across the peninsula of

Michigan.

The bill granting the right of way and making a grant of land to the State of Michigan, in trust for the Zilwan-kie, Grand Traverse, and Mackinaw Plank Road Company in aid of the construction of a plank road from Zilwaukie, on Saginaw river, to Grand Traverse Bay, thence to the

DEFICIENCY BILL.

Mr. HUNTER moved the consideration of the deficiency bill, and the Senate proceeded to consider it; when The bill being taken up, the remainder of the day was spent in its consideration.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. McLANAHAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill of the Senate concerning the session of the courts of the United States in the district of Delaware, reported the same back without amendment; when—
It was read the third time and passed.

PUBLIC LANDS.

Mr. PREEMAN, by unanimous consent, from the Committee on Public Lands, to which was referred the bill of the Senate granting the State of Mississippi the right of way and a donation of the public land for the purpose of locating and constructing a railroad from Brandon to the castern border of said State, in the direction of Montgo-mery. Alabama, reported the same back without amend-

the bill of the House granting the right of way and mak-ing a donation of public land to the States of Mississippi and Louisiana, in aid of the construction of a railroad from New Orleans, in the State of Louisiana, to Jackson, in the New Orleans, in the State of Louisiana, to Jackson, in the State of Mississippi, reported the same back with amendments; and the bill and amendments were committed.

Also, from the same committee, to which was referred the bill of the House granting the right of way, and making a denation of public land to the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas, in aid of the construction of control with a same table with a same back with a same table and the same table and table an

Mr. MOORE, of Louisiana, submitted an amendme to this bill, having for its object the granting of the right of way only to one of these roads, without any donation of land.

of land.

The bill and amendments were committed.

Mr. FREEMAN, from the same committee, reported a bill granting to the States of Illinois and Indiana the right of way for and a portion of the public lands, to aid in the construction of a railroad from Lafayette, Indiana, via Middleport, Iroquois county, to La Salle county, Illinois; which was read twice and committed.

Also, from the same committee, to which was referred the bill of the Senate, granting to the State of Arkansas the right of way and a portion of the public land to aid.

the right of way and a portion of the public land to aid in the construction of railroads in that State, reported the same back with amendments; and the bill and amend-

PRINTING.

The House then resumed the consideration of the reso lution reported by the Committee on Printing, providing for the printing of fifty thousand copies of the mechanical part of the Patent Office report for the use of the House, and three thousand additional copies for the use of the Commissioner of Patents; which Mr. CLINGMAN had moved to commit to the Committee the committe Commissioner of Patents; which Mr. CLINGMAN had moved to commit to the Committee on Printing, with instructions "to report to the House what, if any, arrangement has been made to have the public printing executed; and if any other than the public printer has been employed, to report what prices they have agreed to pay; and that the said committee be instructed to let out such printing as the present contractor cannot execute to the lowest re-sponsible bidder, after ten days' notice." The pending question was on seconding the demand for the previous

mestion.

The previous question was seconded, and under the operation thereof the motion of Mr. CLINGMAN to commit the resolution to the Committee on Printing with instruc-

tions, was agreed to. HOMESTEAD BILL.

On motion of Mr. POLK, the House then went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. Hibbard, of New Hampshire, in the chair,) and resumed the consideration of the bill to encourage agriculture, commerce, manufactures, and all other branches of industry, by granting to every man who is the head of a family and a citizen of the United States a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of land, out of the public domain upon condition of occurrance and cultivation of the

one hundred and sixty acres of land, out of the public do-main, upon condition of occupancy and cultivation of the same for the period of five years.

The bill having been read through—
The committee proceeded to consider the first section of the bill, it being as follows, the words in *italics* being those proposed to be inserted by the Committee on Agri-culture:

the committee on Agriculture:

Be it enacted, &c., That every man or widow, who is the
head of a family, and a citizen of the United States on the first
day of January, 1852, who is not the owner of any land, nor
worth the sum of five hundred dollars, and who has not disposed
of his or her land for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the
provisions of this act, shall, from and after the passage of this
act, be entitled to enter, free of cost, one-quarter section of
vacant and unappropriated public lands, or a quantity equal
thereto, to be located in a body, in conformity with the legal
subdivisions of the public lands, and after the same shall have
been surveyed. been surveyed.

The question being on the amendment proposed by the

Mr. MOORE, of Louisiana, moved to amend the amend-Mr. MOORE, of Louisiana, moved to amend the amend-ment of the committee, by striking out the words "nor-worth the sum of five hundred dollars." He could see no reason why the Committee on Agriculture had inserted these words. The public lands, as he understood it, were the property of the whole people of the United States, while, under the amendment proposed by the Committee on Agriculture, no person could obtain the benefit of them who was worth the sum of five hundred dollars. Be-sides such a provision would great a strong tomusticon sides, such a provision would create a strong temptation on the part of some to commit perjury, by swearing that they were not worth five hundred dollars, when the contrary was the fact. This provision would make an invidi-ous distinction. The object was to bring the lands into cultivation, and great good would result from their settle-

ment by men who possessed over five hundred dollars.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Tennessee, said that if the gentleman from Louisiana would examine an amendment he had heretofore offered, he would perceive that it was designed to accomplish the same object he had in view. He (Mr. J.) would be willing to take the section either way; but he believed that the amendment he had offered would meet the approbation of a majority of the House. If the House should adopt his amendment in lieu of the first section, he thought the bill would be in as acceptable a form as it could be made.

This bill was intended to ameliorate and elevate the nest appeal to those who were its friends and its foes. Let them adopt the first section, and the remainder of the bill, he thought, was as perfect as it could be made; for what would suit one would not suit another. It would be utterly impossible to perfect the bill so as to satisfy every member. The Senate, even if the House should make it perfect, would do something to render it more complete. After having routed the enemy, "horse, foot, and dragoons," and driven them from the field, should the friends of the bill have this struggle? He appealed both to the friends and enemies of the bill to forbear, and let this bill have a fair test. Let it go to the country, and

let this bill have a fair test. Let it go to the country, and let the country pass upon it.

The amendment of Mr. Moore was then agreed to.

Mr. BEALE then moved a pro forms amendment, and spoke against the bill, declaring it unconstitutional.

Mr. SWEETSER opposed the amendment of Mr. Johnson, of Tennessee, which that gentleman had alluded to. The amendment, he said, proposed to confine the benefits of this bill to persons now resident within the United States, and to cut off all persons who might hereafter emigrate to this country. In order that he might not be misunderstood, he would say that he was in favor of extending the benefits of this bill not only to foreigners now re-

understood, he would say that he was in favor of extending the benefits of this bill not only to foreigners now resident in this country, but to those who might come here and file their declaration to become citizens of the United States before entering on the public lands.

Mr. STEVENS, of Pennsylvania, moved to amend the amendment proposed by the Committee on Agriculture, by striking out "and who has not disposed of his or her land for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the provisions of this act." He knew of no reason why a man, the owner of a farm in an old State, who wished to improve his fortunes in a new one, should not be placed in the same condition as a man who sold his personal property. If a man chose to sell his lands and remove to new lands for the purpose of improving them, he should be permitted to do so. The great doctrine was to have the lands cultivated, and it was not desirable that they should be cultivated by poor men altogether. It would be an unhappy condition to society if no persons but paupers should settle in the West. with a should settle in the West.

Mr. McMULLEN understood the amer@ment of the

Mr. McMULLEN understood the ameriment of the gentleman to be to allow persons to sell their lands and emigrate to the West, so as to become beneficiaries of this law. He hoped it would not be the pleasure of the House to adopt this amendment, for it was not the purpose of the friends of the bill to allow persons who were able to purchase homes to receive at the hands of the Government one hundred and sixty acres of land free of cost. If the friends of the bill should allow amendment after amendment to be made, they might make the bill so objectionable that many who were now in favor of it would be comable that many who were now in favor of it would be com-pelled to vote against it. If the amendment should be adopted, he for one would be compelled to vote against

Mr. STUART deemed it a most important thing for the States in which these public lands laid, to strike out this limitation, so that the very best population could come into the States that the character of the transaction was susceptible of.

The amendment of Mr. STEVENS was then adopted. The amendment of Mr. STEVENS was then adopted.
Mr. PARKER, of Indiana, moved to strike out the
words "who is not the owner of any land." He called the
attention of the committee to the fact that in the old as
well as the new States frequently very large families, by
the decease of the head of the family, had real estate divided among them, and invested amongst the whole family. It was cut up into small parcels, and each member
would not perhaps obtain fifty or a hundred dollars of the
whole homestead. If the provision he had moved to strike
out should be retained, it would debar such persons from
deriving any benefit from this bill until they should sell
the real estate they had in lands. the real estate they had in lands.

Mr. BEALE then made further remarks against the

Mr. BEALE then made further remarks against the bill, when—

The amendment of Mr. Parker was agreed to.

Mr. SACKETT moved a pro forma amendment, and thought that all the limitations contained in the bill should be stricken out. He understood that the great and important object to be attained by the bill was the settlement and cultivation of the public lands, and there should be no limitation as to who should have the right to enjoy the bounties of this bill. He was in favor of the passage of the bill based upon such a principle, for he believed it would promote commerce, agriculture, and manufactures, and the general interests of the community. All citizens should have the benefit of the provisions of the bill.

Mr. HOWARD thought that the object of the bill was to provide gratuitously homes for the poor, and he desired

mery, Alshama, reported the same back without amend-ment, and it was committed.

Also, from the same committee, to which was referred

oprovide gratuitously homes for the poor, and he desired to know under what provision of the Constitution Con-gress had the right to establish charities within the States

or elsewhere? Had they the right to give away the public treatury for the purpose of establishing charitable in stitutions in the States or any where else? If they had no right to give away the public money for such a purpose, by what species of reasoning did they arrive at the conclusion that they possessed the right to give away the public lands, or any other public property, to create a great national almshouse? It struck him there was no distinction between the public lands and public property. This bill was the wildest scheme of socialism that the wildest socialist ever dreamed of.

The question was then taken on the amendment of the

wildest socialist ever dreamed of.

The question was then taken on the amendment of the Committee on Agriculture, and it was rejected.

Mr. CAMPBELL, of Illineis, moved to strike out the word "citizens" and insert "residents," which he thought would have the effect of relieving the bill of an odious and

unjust restriction.

Mr. HALL was opposed to the amendment, being of the opinion that the benefits of the bill should be confined to citizens of the United States. He then replied to the restrictionality of the narks of Mr. Howard as to the constitu

The amendment was not agreed to.

Mr. ALLISON moved to strike out the words "who is Mr. ALLISON moved to strike out the words "who is the head of a family," declaring that, as the bill now stood, it would prohibit every backelor from taking one hundred and sixty acres of the public domain under the provisions of the bill. He wished them to have the same

provisions of the bill. He wished them to have the same privilege as others.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Tennessee, replied to the remarks of Mr. Howard. The gentleman had denounced the bill as a scheme of Fourrierism. When they looked at the gentleman's own State, what did they see? One of the distinguished men of that State, who had distinguished himself in military as well as civil life, and who had almost spoken Texas into existence, and shed his blood, and perilled his life for that State, had come forward in the Senate with a proposition in substance like this. And yet the gentleman said that this was Fourrierism! The gentleman had spoken of gratuities. How long had it been since Texas received ten millions at the hands of the Government?

since Texas received ten millions at the hands of the Government?

The amendment of Mr. Allison was then rejected.

Mr. CLINGMAN moved to insert after the words United States, "except members of Congress, shall be entitled to have issued to him by the Commissioner of Public Lands, a warrant of 160 acres of land, to be located in the same manner as that under which bounty land warrants heretofore issued have been located on any public lands in the United States subject to entry, the applicant being required to make proof in support of his claim in such manner and under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior."

Mr. C. said that it would be seen that his amendment was an important one. He did not exactly like the policy of this bill; but if it was to pass, he hoped it would pass in the manner he proposed to amend it. If they were to make a disposition of the public lands, he desired it to be an equitable one.

Mr. CARTTER opposed the amendment on the ground that it would vitally affect the success of the bill.

The amendment of Mr. CLINGMAN was then rejected: Ayes 28, noes 89.

Mr. SACKETT moved to strike out all the limitation in the bill, and insert "that every citizen of the United States of the age of twenty-one years shall," &c. He said that the effect of the amendment would be to extend the benefits of the bill to all citizens of the United States

the benefits of the bill to all citizens of the United States of the age of twenty-one years.

Mr. HOWARD was opposed to the amendment, as it tended to squander the lands to a greater extent than the original proposition. He then replied to the charge of Mr. Johnson of inconsistency, because the State of Texas at one time adopted a similar policy to this. He stated the evil effect of that policy upon the country, which he said would be found one of the best arguments against the high halfore the committee.

said would be found one of the best arguments against the bill before the committee.

The amendment of Mr. Sackett was then negatived.

Mr. CLARKE moved to strike out "free of cost," and insert "at fifty cents per acre." He remarked that he had constitutional difficulties to this measure. It was an undeniable proposition that the public lands were a common fund for the benefit of all the people of all the States. If this was true, then whatever legislation was class legislation amounted to exclusive legislation, and was not in accordance with constitutional requirements. He doubtin accordance with constitutional requirements. He doubted also as to the expediency of the measure, and stated the effect it would have in his State.

Mr. CHANDLER replied to the remarks of Mr. CLARKE,

as did also Mr. MOLONY, who expressed his surprise that any

ment of Mr. Clarke by reducing the sum to be charged for the public lands to twenty-five cents per acre. He suggested that all the public lands should be open to every body who wished to make an actual settlement at this price, and was opposed to confining the settlement of these lands to heads of families.

The question being on the amendment of Mr. Parker—On motion, the committee rose and the House adjourned.

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1852.

IN SENATE.

Mr. HUNTER moved that the rule setting apart Friday in each week for the consideration of private bills, to the exclusion of all other business, be suspended.

Mr. BORLAND expressed the hope that the motion would not prevail. At an early period of the session they had passed a resolution by a very strong vote to devote one day in each week to the consideration of private bills, and if the motion which led to the measure at that time was a correct one, it became stronger now when the num-ber of such bills on the calendar had been so materially ber of such bills on the calendar had been so materially increased. Claimants were waiting the tardy action of Congress on their just claims, who were ill able to bear the expense attendant upon long delay; and, as it was for their protection the rule had been adopted, he hoped they might continue to recognise its propriety by adhering to its provisions. The deficiency bill was one that could pass at any moment when brought to a vote. In its case there was no pressing necessity existing, while in that of private bills the necessities of the claimants were of the

most urgent character.

The question having been taken on the motion of Mr. Hunter, it was decided in the affirmative: Ayes 21,

LAND BILLS.

On motion by Mr. CLEMENS, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill granting the right of way and making a donation of land to the State of Alabama, in aid of the construction of the Mobile and Girard railroad; which, after having been amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

On motion by Mr. BADGER, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution submitted by him the 29th ultimo, in relation to an amendment of the 30th rule for conducting the business of the Senate, and after some considerable discussion, in which Messrs. BADGER, HALE, UNDERWOOD, HUNTER, BRIGHT, RUSK, ATCHISON, BERRIEN, BORLAND, and others participated, the reso-BERRIEN, BORLAND, and others participated, the reso-

tion was agreed to.

The 26th rule was also amended, so as to make any motion to suspend the 16th and 17th joint rules, or either of them, always in order, and to be decided without

debate.
On motion by Mr. MALLORY, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill granting the right of way to the Florida, Atlantic, and Gulf Central Railroad Company through the public lands of the United States, and appropriate lands to the State of Florida in aid of the censtruction of said railroad and branches; which, after having been amended, was ordered to be engrossed and ead a third time.

THE DEFICIENCY BILL. THE DEFICIENCY BILL.

The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of the deficiency bill, the amendment pending being that made by Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, to strike out \$38,000 in the amendment made by the Committee of Finance giving increased compensation to the Collins line of steamships, and insert \$25,000 in lieu thereof.

Mr. CASS rose and took ground in favor of allowing the amendment of the Committee of Finance; when the question was taken on the amendment of Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, to insert \$25,000 instead of \$33,000, and decided in the negative, as follows:

cided in the negative, as follows:
YEAS—Messrs. Adams, Atchison, Borland, Brodhead,
Brooke, Dodge of Wisconsin, Dodge of Iowa, Felch, Geyer,
Hunter, Jones of Iowa, Jones of Tennessee, King, Mallory,
Mason, Sebastian, Underwood, Wade, Walker, Weller, and Whitcomb—21.

NAYS—Mesers. Badger, Bayard, Bell, Berrien, Bradbury, Bright, Cass, Clarke, Dawson, Douglas, Fish, Gwin, Hale, Hamlin, Houston, James, Mangum, Miller, Norris, Pearce, Pratt, Rusk, Seward, Shields, Smith, Stockten, Sumner, and

Mr. BROOKE moved to amend the amendment as "To that now allowed to the Collins line of steamers for the transportation of the mails between New York and Liverpool there shall be appropriated the whole amount of postages received on mails carried by said steamers: Provided, That the number of trips in said steamers be increased from twenty to twenty-six per annum, at such times as shall be directed by the Postmaster General, said service to commence the 1st ordered by Congress." They have entered into contracts

what prices they have agreed to pay," and who were also "instructed to let out such printing as the present contractor cannot execute to the lowest bidder, after ten days' notice," respectfully report:

That under the resolution of the two Houses of Congress, adopted August 3, 1846, the proper officers of the Senate and House of Representatives let out the public printing to the lowest bidder, agreeably to the terms of the said resolution. That A. Boyd Hamilton, being the lowest bidder for each of the several classes of the public printing designated by the law, received the contract, and entered into bonds for its faithful execution on the 3d of March, 1851. The prices at which said 14 Hamilton undertook to do the work are ruinously low, and in the opinion of experienced practical printers are scarcely more than sufficient to pay for the paper upon which the printing is required to be done by the terms of the contract. The officers authorized by the said joint resolution to let out the work and make the contract, in their report to the House of the 3d of March, 1851, estimate the aggregate amount of the contract of the printing will be ordered by the present Congress than was executed under the order of the previous one. It is conceded by all that the next lowest responsible bidder who offered for the printing, and was willing to take it at his bid, was John T. Towers, an experienced practical printer of the city of Washington. The difference between the sum which the contractor, Hamilton, will receive by his contract and the bid of John T. Towers, for the same amount of printing, is \$49,689, or a difference of nearly one hundred per cent, in the two bids. If compared with the bid of John C. Rives, another competitor for the same printing, the disparity between the sum agreed upon by the contractor and that for which Mr. Rives was willing to execute the work is much greater, being the sum of \$108,741, or more than one hundred and twenty-five per cent. Both Towers and Rives are practical men, engaged extensivel

Mr. MOLONY, who expressed his surprise that any gentleman understanding Western interests should take such a view of the bill as the gentleman from Iowa, (Mr. Clarke.) He considered such views, however honestly entertained, as he believed they certainly were, as suicidal to Western interests. He considered the gentleman from Iowa wrong in all his positions in relation to what were the interests of the West; and he also considered the gentleman wrong in denominating this legislation as class legislation. This bill was not only calculated eminently to advance the interests of the West, but it had been triated to promote national interests.

Mr. DISNEY argued that the bill was constitutional; when Mr. PARKER, of Indiana, moved to amend the amendment of Mr. Clarke by reducing the sum to be charged ment of Mr. Clarke by reducing the sum to be charged in the conduct of the public printer so far, that this document will be fully completed and ready for delivery to the mental and the defective execution, is shamefully bad, and the unskilfal manner of its execution, is shamefully bad, and believed to be worse than that done for any State Legislature in the Union.

It is not only in regard to the inferior quality of the material, and the unskilfal manner of its execution, is shamefully bad, and believed to be worse than that done for any State Legislature in the Union.

It is not only in regard to the inferior quality of the material, and the defective execution of the work that the committee of the West, arising from the inferior quality of the material, and the unskilfal manner of its execution, is shamefully bad, and the unskilfal manner of its execution, is shamefully bad, and the unskilfal manner of its execution, is shamefully bad, and the unskilfal manner of the material, and the unskilfal manner of its execution, is shamefully bad, and the same full believed to the unskilfal manner of the material, and the defective execution of the work that the committee of the work that the committee of the work that the commi

tive purposes which will be ordered by them, and the expense of its publication only so much money wasted. Other important documents, necessary for the use of the various committees, have been delayed in the same unreasonable manner.

Four months ago the contractor was called before the committee, and notified in regard to the inferior execution of the printing, as well as of the delay in furnishing it to Congress. He promised amendment in these respects; but, in utter disregard of his promises, as well as of the obligation of his contract, he has not shown the slightest disposition to furnish better material or better work, or to execute the public printing with more dispatch. The documents, such as have been furnished, are printed upon the same coarse and inferior paper, in the same unskilful, and in some instances illegible manner, and with like want of alacrity.

with more dispacen. The documents, such as have been furnished, are printed upon the same coarse and inferior paper, in the same unskilful, and in some instances illegible manner, and with like want of alacrity.

Your committee were required by the provisions of the joint resolution directing the manner of procuring the printing of the two Houses of Congress, in the contingency presented to them by the gross default of the contractor, "to adopt such means to remedy his neglect and delay" in the execution of the work ordered by Congress as they might deem necessary. It was apparent to every member of the committee, not only from the state of the public printing, but the admissions of the contractor himself, that he could not comply with his undertaking, so as to ensure to Congress work done upon the proper material, and as rapidly as the terms of his undertaking required. There was then left to the committee no other alternative than to permit Congress to submit to the imposition of inferior work and unreasonable delay, or exercise the power conferred upon them by law. They chose to perform what seemed to them to be their obvious duty, and entered into contracts with Donelson & Armstrong to execute so much of the public printing as had been or might be ordered by the House, and which the public contractor could not or would not do; and with Gideon & Co. to do that ordered by the Senate. Each of these firms has entered into bond in the penalty of \$20,000, with good security, for the faithful performance of the work. The prices agreed to be paid to these firms, for the work they may execute under their respective contracts, are hereto appended, and made part of this report. They do not differ materially from the bid of John T. Towers, and are believed by the committee to be such as will afford the contractors no more than a moderate profit.

The arrangement made by the committee with these firms was intended only as a temporary measure to secure the prompt and speedy execution of the public printing, and extends n

The public printer has filed with the committee a memorial, stating various grounds of excuse for not being able to execute the public work in the manner provided for in his contract, and asking at the hands of the committee such relief as in their judgment may be just and equitable. We refer to this memorial merely because of its admission that the contractor has not been able to meet the obligations of his contract, and to indicate to the House his reliance upon Congress for ultimate relief.

The resolution of the House instructs the joint committee the tout such printing as the present contractor cannot expend the contractor cannot expend the

The resolution of the House instructs the joint committee "to let out such printing as the present contractor cannot execute to the lowest bidder, after ten days' notice." The joint committee is created under the joint resolution of the two Houses of Congress, approved August 3d, 1846, and is composed of three members from each House. To this committee, by either House, acting separately. If the House may instruct the committee, as also may the Senate. In the event of conflicting instructions from these bodies, the organization of the committee is such, being composed of equal numbers from each House, that neither set of instructions could be effective. When these instructions contravene the law itself, and require the committee to disregard the obvious duties imposed upon them by that law, surely no one will maintain that they ought to be obeyed.

them by that haw, surely no one will maintain that they ought to be obeyed.

While your committee have no disposition to disregard the known will of either House, in all matters not involving a violation of law, they cannot, consistently with their obligations under the law, obey instructions not authorized by but in their opinion against the law.

The second section of the joint resolution referred to is as follows:

The second section of the joint resolution referred to is a follows:

Sec 2 And be it further resolved, That a committee, consisting three members of the Senate and three members of the House of Reresentatives shall be chosen by their respective Houses, which sho constitute a Committee on Printing, which shall have power to ado such measures as may be deemed necessary to remedy any neglect delay on the part of the contractor to execute the work ordered. Congress, and to make a pro rata reduction in the compensation allow or to refuse the work altegether, should it be inferior to the standard and in all cases, the contractor and his securities shall be responsite for any increased expenditure consequent upon the non-performat of the contract. The committee shall and it and pass upon all accours for printing; but no bill shall be acted upon for work that is not tually executed and delivered, and which they may require to be partly authenticated.

street as Congress to reduce the nation of besteron said States.

This amendment ded to a long discussion in which Means, BROOKE, HALE, EELGI, PRATT, ATCHISON, BORKAND, BERRIER, RUSS, UNDERWOOD, and other has been been as the state of the same of

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that the further consideration of the report be postponed until Monday next, which was generally a waste day. The report by that time could be printed, and members would be afforded an opportunity to examine it. He hoped the House would proceed to-day to consider private bills.

hoped the House would proceed to day to consider private bills.

Mr. POLK thought that if the report was to be printed it should be postponed until Wednesday next.

Mr. STANLY preferred Monday, for on that day the House was generally engaged in miscellaneous matters.

Mr. STANTON, of Kentucky, said that he would make this remark. The resolution presented by the committee was in the language of the law—it was literally the law itself. The committee desired to know of the House whether they were to obey the law as it stood on the statutebook, or whether they were to act in obedience to the instructions of the House. If required to obey the instructions of the House, against the law, the committee could not do it, and their duties were at an end; and, so far as he was individually concerned, he should be compelled to wash his hands of it, and so also would the rest of the committee:

Mr. POLK withdrew the demand for the previous question.

Mr. HOUSTON suggested to the gentleman from Tennessee to move to postpone the report until Monday, so that it could then be finally disposed of. These matters were constantly brought in ahead of business which demanded the consideration of the House, and his object was to have this report postponed to a proper day.

Mr. POLK said that it would gratify him to acquiesce in the suggestions of the gentleman from Alabama, but he thought the House should examine the question properly, and he therefore adhered to his original motion.

Mr. FLORENCE had no objection to the postponement of the report until Wednesday, but he wished to correct an erroneous impression which prevailed in the House to a considerable extent.

Several gentlemen calling Mr. FLORENCE to order.

The SPEAKER decided that no debate was in order.

Mr. FLORENCE saked the consent of the House to make a statement. He wished to state why this report should not be postponed.

[Cries of "Order, order!"]

Mr. POLK hoped the gentleman would be allowed to print his remarks. [Laughter.]

Mr. GORMAN then demanded the previous question.

Mr. BROWN, of Mississippi, inquired the effect of the motion, if seconded?

The SPEAKER stated that it would bring the House

motion, if seconded?

The SPEAKER stated that it would bring the House to a direct vote upon the resolution reported by the com-

mittee.

Mr. BROWN, of Mississippi, hoped the demand for the previous question would be voted down.

Mr. GORMAN hoped that neither the Speaker nor the gentleman from Mississippi would make speeches unless he also could be heard.

The SPEAKER called the gentleman from Indiana to order.

order. The Chair would try to keep within bounds himself. himself.

The House then refused to second the demand for the previous question, the vote being 38 in the affirmative and 98 in the negative.

Mr. BROWN, of Mississippi, gave notice that at the

proper time he would move to amend the resolution of the Committee on Printing by substituting in lieu thereof the Committee on Printing by substitution following:

Resolved, That the House of Representatives have a right to direct the Committee on Printing as to the manner in which they shall discharge their duties in procuring the execution of the public printing, and that it is the duty of said committee to procure the printing to be done in the manner pointed out by the House of Representatives.

Mr. STANLY hoped the gentleman would modify his resolution by adding the words, "no law to the contrary notwithstanding."

Mr. BROWN. I shall do no such thing, and I am pre-

Mr. BROWN. I shall do no such thing, and I am prepared to show that my resolution is right.

The motion to postpone the further consideration of
the report until Wednesday next was then agreed to.

Mr. STANTON, of Tennessee, asked the unanimous consent of the House to report from the Committee on Naval Affairs Senate bill for the relief of certain officers and
seamen of the United States brig Washington, for the
purpose of having it referred to the Committee of the
Whole

Mr. SEYMOUR, of Connecticut, moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on the private Mr. McMULLEN moved that the House resolve itself

into Committee of the Whole on the homestead bi And the question being first taken on the latter motion, it was disagreed to.

The motion of Mr. SEYMOUR was then agreed to. PRIVATE CALENDAR.

And thereupon the House went into Committee of the Whole, (Mr. Stuarr, of Michigan, in the chair,) and proceeded to consider the bills on the private calendar. This being what is termed "objection day," all bills to which no objection was made were laid aside to be reported to the House with the recommendation that they do pass. Those bills to which objection was made were laid aside to be considered whenever the House shall again.

go into committee on the private calendar.

The following bills were laid aside to be reported to the House with the recommendation that they do pass:

A bill for the relief of Josiah P. Pilcher, late a private
in Company F, 2d regiment Kentucky volunteers.

A bill for the relief of the heirs at law of Anthony G. Willis, deceased.

A bill for the relief of Dr. S. R. Addison, passed as-

sistant surgeon in the United States navy.

A bill for the relief of Jacob J. Storer.

A bill for the relief of Henry Miller, a soldier of the A bill for the relief of Wm. Lynch, a soldier of the late

war with Great Britain.

A bill for the relief of Chas. Staples.

A bill for the relief of Aaron Stafford. An act for the relief of Wm. P. Greene.

A bill for the relief of John B. Rogers, of South Ca-A bill for the relief of Jos. Arnow and Peter Arnow.

A bill for the relief of Geo. Simpton, of Galveston. A bill for the relief of C. L. Swayze, in relation to the location of certain Chickasaw scrip.

Many bills were objected to, and the committee, after being in session upwards of an hour, rose and reported its action to the House. RALEIGH AND GASTON RAILROAD.

The House then proceeded to consider the bill for the relief of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company, the question being on its passage.

Mr. SEYMOUR, of New York, moved to lay the bill on the table; which motion was disagreed to: Yeas 70, nays 74.

Pending the question on the passage of the bill, on motion, it was ordered that when the House adjourn to-day it adjourn to meet on Monday next: Ayes 77, noes 72.

ADJOURNMENT. Mr. JOHNSON, of Arkansas, asked the unanimous consent of the House to call up for consideration the resolution submitted by him yesterday, providing for the adjournment of the House from Tuesday, the 1st, to Friday, the 4th of June, for the purpose of having the ball refitted and cleaned for summer use.

Objection was made.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Arkansas, rose to a question of or-Mr. JOHNSON, of Arkansas, rose to a question of or-der. He did not know, nor did he care, who object-ed, but he thought that nobody should be recognised as objecting unless he first rose in his seat and showed his face. It was outrageous when a gentleman would not take the responsibility of his act, though he did not mean to say such was the case in the present instance. He therefore asked that the Chair would recognise no objec-tion, unless the gentleman making it should first rise in his seat.

his seat.
Mr. J. W. HOWE, of Pennsylvania, then rose in his seat and objected.

Mr. JOHNSON hoped the Speaker would enforce this

upon all.

The House then adjourned.

THE GLADE FOR SALE.—I offer for sale my farm in Jefferson, known as the "Glade," containing 306 acres, 156 acres cleared, and 150 in timber. The quality of the land is unsurpassed by any in the county of Jefferson.

On the tract is a comfortable log dwelling, a well of good water, and a stream running through one end of the farm. A more particular description is unnecessary, as those wishing to purchase will first view the premises. The farm will be shown at any time by Mr. T. A. Lewis who resides near it, and who will give information as to terms, &c. Application may also be made (postpaid) to Mr. Edward R. Cooke, Charlestown, Jefferson county, Virginia, or to Mrs. Alexander G. Gordon, Fort Hamilton, Long Island, New York.